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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0055 (as printed in the publication of this application, No. 2005/0192581) with the following amended paragraph:

The radiopaque element can be provided in a variety of materials. Examples of ~~radiolucent~~ radiopaque materials that can be used in the present invention include, without limitation: nitinol, titanium, titanium-vanadium-aluminum alloy, cobalt-chromium alloy, cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloy, cobalt-nickel-chromium-molybdenum alloy, stainless steel, tantalum, niobium, hafnium, tungsten, gold, silver, platinum, or iridium metals, alloys, and mixtures thereof. In preferred embodiments, the radiopaque element is provided as a ~~radiolucent~~ radiopaque metallic wire formed of one or more of the above listed materials. One particularly preferred material is a cobalt-chromium alloy sold under the trade name ELGILOY® by Elgiloy Specialty Metals of Elgin, Illinois (as specified in ASTM F1058). In other embodiments, the radiopaque element can be provided as a polymeric fiber(s) coated or impregnated with one or more of the materials listed above.

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
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